



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

July 14 to August 4, 2003



NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Week of 8/4: Evidence entered into NIBIN resulted in linking the murder of a female victim to a gun attack on four females the previous day. The St. Petersburg, Florida, Police Department responded to the scene of a shooting at a dwelling occupied by four females. The victims and a witness told police they heard gunshots from outside the residence. The witness stated she saw two males walking outside the residence, and that they had shot at the house. The responding officers recovered four 9mm shell casings at the scene, which were imaged into NIBIN. The following day, the St. Petersburg Police Department responded to several drive-by shootings, including one in which a female victim was found dead in the front yard of a residence. Witnesses identified a vehicle believed to be involved in the shooting, which was located a short time later that evening. Officers pursued the vehicle and shots were exchanged. The vehicle wrecked and three male subjects were arrested. Three firearms were recovered, including a 9mm pistol, along with numerous shell casings. All of the evidence was imaged into NIBIN resulting in a link between the 9mm pistol recovered in the drive-by shooting and the casings found at the shooting at the dwelling the previous day. The subjects have been charged with numerous crimes including homicide.

Week of 7/28: The Sheriff's Office in Jacksonville, Florida, utilized ballistics imaging through NIBIN to link .45-caliber casings found at a local elementary school to a suspect involved in the armed robbery of a restaurant the following month. The April 2003 shooting at the school occurred while classes were not in session. A teacher at the school discovered that a window had been shot at and broken. She found .45-caliber casings on the floor and contacted the Sheriff's Office. The casings were imaged into NIBIN. In May 2003, officers responding to a call for an armed robbery at a restaurant observed a vehicle fleeing the scene. A pursuit ensued, the suspects were cornered, and shots exchanged. Both suspects were wounded. As the officers approached, one of the suspects shot and killed himself with a .45-caliber pistol. Entry of the .45-caliber casings from the pistol resulted in linking the weapon used by the deceased armed robbery suspect to the school shooting.

Week of 7/21: The Boston Police Department linked ballistic evidence from a recovered pistol to casings found in a shooting eleven months earlier. Officers responding to a call for a person with a gun stopped a suspect vehicle occupied by four females. A .25-caliber pistol with an obliterated serial number was recovered from one of the female occupants. Test firing of the pistol and entry into NIBIN resulted in the ballistic link to a shooting that occurred several months earlier involving two male victims, one of whom suffered an injury. Investigators at the scene of the shooting determined that the victims had engaged several females in conversation, which ended in shots being fired at the male victims. Two .25-caliber casings were recovered at the scene and entered into IBIS. As a result of the ballistic match, the 29-year old female in possession of the pistol was arrested and charged with State firearm violations.

Week of 7/14: Using NIBIN, the Sheriff's Office in Jefferson County, Alabama, linked two suspects to several vicious crimes. The Cold Case Squad of the Sheriff's Office was working with the State Fire Marshall's Office in reviewing the evidence in a multiple victim arson homicide case. Information was developed concerning a firearm recovered in Adamsville, Alabama, that was associated with the primary suspect in the arson murders. The weapon was test fired and the casing and bullet were entered into the NIBIN database. The evidence was immediately linked to a 1996 incident in Birmingham, Alabama, in which an elderly woman was robbed and murdered in a home. The suspects have been charged with multiple crimes, and judicial action is pending.